

Message Text

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ACTION STR-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /089 W

-----078193 131704Z /47

O R 131623Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1044

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EC

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH VISCOUNT DAVIGNON, EC COMMISSIONER

1. THIS CABLE REPORTS ON A MEETING WITH EC COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON, ATTENDED BY AMBASSADORS MCDONALD AND HINTON, AND WILLIAM CULBERT, ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1977.

2. IN A SOMEWHAT ABBREVIATED FORMAT THE MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED WITH SIR ROY DENMAN CONCERNING THE U.S. POSITION WERE OUTLINED TO DAVIGNON LATER THAT DAY. THE MEETING WAS QUITE CORDIAL, OPEN AND RELATIVELY ENCOURAGING. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WELCOMED AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' VISIT, BELIEVED WE SHOULD PROCEED ON THE OVERALL TIMETABLE AGREED UPON AND SHOULD
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BE ABLE TO COME TO AGREEMENT ON THE NEXT STEP.

3. HE WAS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN THE U.S. IDEA OF NO-NET EXCEPTIONS AND VERY ATTENTIVE TO THE CONCEPT OF LINKAGE IN DEGREE OF HARMONIZATION WITH OVERALL LEVEL OF TARIFF CUT. HE WAS CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF PROVIDING LATER FLEXIBILITY BY ANNOUNCING AT THE OUTSET OUR INTENTION

TO STAGE THE APPLICATION OF WHATEVER TARIFF REDUCTIONS ARE LATER AGREED WITH A VIEW TOWARD AVOIDING DISRUPTIONS AND DISLOCATIONS, AND FURTHER COMPLICATING NEAR-TERM THE ALREADY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES FACED BY EVERYONE. HE REPEATED THAT AS LONG AS WE LEAVE OURSELVES ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY AT THE OUTSET, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ON TARIFF LEVELS. REPEATEDLY, HE WENT BACK TO THE ISSUE OF STAGING, APPARENTLY SEEING THIS AS A POSSIBLE AVENUE FOR ACCOMMODATING MORE AGGRESSIVE U.S. REDUCTIONS. HE RESPONDED ALSO WITH INTEREST TO THE POINT THAT THE TARIFF FORMULA MIGHT BE ANOTHER POSSIBLE WAY TO ENCOURAGE INTERNAL EC INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING AWAY FROM LESS PROMISING TO MORE DYNAMIC AREAS FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

4. BECAUSE OF HIS INDUSTRY CONCERNS, HE WAS ALSO QUITE ATTENTIVE TO MCDONALD'S ARGUMENTS ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THAT THE SIGNAL OF A LOW TARIFF CUT WOULD COMMUNICATE. HE ALSO APPEARED APPRECIATIVE AND RECEPTIVE FURTHER TO THE IDEA THAT WE WOULD CAREFULLY SEARCH OUR SCHEDULES IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS THAT, WHILE POLITICALLY TOLERABLE IN THE U.S., WOULD CLEARLY PROVIDE FUTURE EC TRADE EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP BUILD EUROPEAN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATING PROGRESS.

5. MCDONALD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE CONCERN OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR STRAUSS TO MEET THE OCTOBER DEADLINE. HE DID NOT REACT TO THE MENTION OF THIS DATE (ALTHOUGH THE EC HAS NOT PUBLICLY ACCEPTED THIS OR OUR OTHER SUBDATES WITHIN THE OVERALL PACKAGE TO BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 15.

6. SIMILAR PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS COULD NOT BE ARRANGED WITH COMMISSIONERS HAFERKAMP AND GUNDELACH SINCE BOTH WERE AWAY FROM BRUSSELS. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA07791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770331-0981
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770971/aaaachqn.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72480548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1298816
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH VISCOUNT DAVIGNON, EC COMMISSIONER
TAGS: ETRD, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72480548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009